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HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Irene FREUDENSCHUSS-REICHL (Austria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 September 1993, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "Human resources development" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 15th to 17th, 21st and 45th meetings, on 20 to 22 October, 2 November and 6 December 1993. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/48/SR.15-17, 21 and 45). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 8 and 11 to 13 October (see A/C.2/48/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on developing human resources for development (A/48/364);

(b) Letter dated 11 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the communiqué of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (A/48/309);

(c) Letter dated 6 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 adopted at their seventeenth annual meeting (A/48/485);

(d) Letter dated 28 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the communiqué adopted at the Meeting of the Heads of Government of the countries of the Commonwealth, held at Limassol, Cyprus, from 21 to 25 October 1993 (A/48/564);

(e) Letter dated 15 October 1993 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held in New York on 30 September 1993 (A/C.2/48/4).

4. At the 15th meeting, on 20 October, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Division for Macroeconomic and Social Policy Analysis, Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, the Assistant Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme and the Director of the Division for Least Developed, Land-locked and Island Developing Countries of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (see A/C.2/48/SR.15).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/48/L.9 AND L.56

5. At the 21st meeting, on 2 November, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Developing human resources for development" (A/C.2/48/L.9) and orally revised it as follows: a new operative paragraph 3 was added to read:

> "Reaffirms the importance of women and youth in human resources development and, in this context, welcomes the International Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995 and the proposal adopted by the Commonwealth Heads of Governments to convene a Global Summit on Youth on an agreed date"

and subsequent paragraphs were renumbered accordingly.

6. The draft resolution, as orally revised, read as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
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> "Reaffirming its resolutions 44/213 of 22 December 1989, 45/191 of 21 December 1990 and 46/143 of 17 December 1991, on developing human resources for development, as well as its resolutions S-18/3 of 1 May 1990 and 45/199 of 21 December 1990,
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> "Recalling its resolutions 40/179 of 17 December 1985 and 44/234 of 22 December 1989,

"Reaffirming that people are central to all development activities and that human resources development is an essential means of achieving sustainable development goals,

"Recognizing that the concept of human resources development specifically refers to the human component of economic, social and development activities,

"Emphasizing that human resources development should contribute to total human development and that there is therefore a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies for human development,

"Stressing the need for providing adequate resources to enhance the capacity of Governments in developing countries to promote human resources development in pursuit of their national programmes, plans and strategies for development,

"Recognizing that, while stabilization and structural adjustment programmes are intended to promote economic growth and development, elements of such programmes may have an adverse impact on human resources development, and recognizing the need to take action to mitigate those negative effects,

"Stressing that a favourable international economic environment is critical to enhancing human resources development for the promotion of economic growth and development in developing countries,

"Emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in supporting national efforts in human resources development in developing countries and the integral roles of North-South and South-South cooperation in this regard,

"Emphasizing further the need for organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to give priority to human resources development and to approach the relevant activities in a coordinated and integrated manner,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on developing human resources for development; 1/

"2. Emphasizes that in the development of human resources an overall, well-conceived and integrated approach should be adopted, taking into account such vital areas as population, health, nutrition, water, sanitation, housing, communications, education and training, and science and technology, as well as the need to create more opportunities for employment;

1/ A/48/364.

"3. Reaffirms the importance of women and youth in human resources development and, in this context, welcomes the International Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995 and the proposal adopted by the Commonwealth Heads of Governments to convene a Global Summit on Youth on an agreed date;

"4. Emphasizes further the primary responsibility of Governments in formulating and implementing appropriate national policies to promote human resources development;

"5. Stresses the need for a supportive international economic environment as regards, inter alia, external indebtedness, terms of trade, commodity prices, improved market access and trade practices, and in this connection, stresses the urgent need for a balanced and successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which would result in the liberalization and expansion of world trade to the benefit of all countries, in particular the developing countries;

"6. Stresses the importance of international support for national efforts and regional programmes in human resources development, particularly in the area of national capacity-building, and stresses further the need to increase the flow of resources to developing countries to this end;

"7. Requests the United Nations development system to strengthen the support provided by its operational activities, at the request of recipient countries, to sectors vital to human resources development;

"8. Calls upon organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take appropriate steps to coordinate their activities in support of national and regional action in human resources development, in particular in achieving the targets agreed upon by Governments, bearing in mind the importance of maintaining a multisectoral integrated approach;

"9. Also calls upon the relevant bodies to bear in mind the need for appropriate social safety nets in formulating and implementing stabilization and structural adjustment programmes in developing countries;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the activities of the United Nations system in human resources development and in this regard to submit to the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including further action taken to enhance inter-agency coordination of the United Nations system in the area of human resources development, bearing in mind the definition of human resources development contained in General Assembly resolutions 44/213, 45/191 and 46/143;

"11. Invites the United Nations system to assist interested developing countries in developing their capacity to assess, including through appropriate indicators, the satisfaction of fundamental economic, social and cultural needs of their population in pursuit of human resources development, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to

the General Assembly at its fiftieth session information on the steps taken towards this end;

"12. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account the important role of human resources development in the elaboration of an agenda for development;

"13. Decides to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled 'Human resources development'."

7. At the 45th meeting, on 6 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), introduced a draft resolution, submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.9 (A/C.2/48/L.56), and orally revised it by replacing the word "concept" in the sixth line of operative paragraph 9 with the word "definition".

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.56, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 10).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.56, draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.9 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Developing human resources for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 44/213 of 22 December 1989, 45/191 of 21 December 1990 and 46/143 of 17 December 1991, on developing human resources for development, as well as its resolutions S-18/3 of 1 May 1990 and 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling its resolutions 40/179 of 17 December 1985 and 44/234 of 22 December 1989,

Reaffirming that people are central to all developmental activities and that human resources development is an essential means of achieving sustainable development goals,

Recognizing that the concept of human resources development specifically refers to the human component of economic, social and development activities,

Emphasizing that human resources development should contribute to total human development and that there is therefore a need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive and gender-sensitive strategies for

human development, taking into account the needs of all people, in particular the needs of women,

Stressing the need for adequate resources to enhance the capacity of Governments in developing countries to promote human resources development in pursuit of their national programmes, plans and strategies for development,

Stressing also that Governments of developing countries have the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate policies for human resources development,

Recognizing that while stabilization and structural adjustment programmes are intended to promote economic growth and development, elements of such programmes can have a possibly adverse impact on human resources development, and also that there is a need to take action, in the formulation and implementation of these programmes, to mitigate their negative effects,

Stressing that a favourable international economic environment is crucial to enhancing human resources development for the promotion of economic growth and development in developing countries,

Emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in supporting national efforts in human resources development in developing countries and the vital roles of North-South and South-South cooperation in this regard,

Emphasizing also the need for organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to give priority to human resources development and to approach the relevant activities in a coordinated and integrated manner,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on developing human resources for development; 2/

2. Emphasizes that in the development of human resources, an overall, well-conceived, integrated and gender-sensitive approach should be adopted, incorporating such vital areas as population, health, nutrition, water, sanitation, housing, communications, education and training, and science and technology, as well as taking into account the need to create more opportunities for employment in an environment that guarantees opportunities for political freedom, popular participation, respect for human rights, justice and equity, all of which are essential for enhancing human capacities to meet the challenge of development;

3. Also emphasizes the need to ensure the full mobilization and integration of women in the formulation and implementation of appropriate national policies to promote human resources development;

4. Reaffirms the importance of women and youth in human resources development and, in this context, welcomes the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in Beijing in 1995 and

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2/ A/48/364.

the proposal noted at the Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Countries of the Commonwealth, held at Limassol, Cyprus, from 21 to 25 October 1993, to convene a global summit on youth at an agreed date; 3/

5. Stresses the importance of international support for national efforts and regional programmes towards human resources development in developing countries, particularly in the area of national capacity-building, and the need to increase the flow of resources to developing countries for such activities, through, inter alia, the improvement of the international economic environment;

6. Calls upon organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, at the request of developing countries, to take appropriate steps to strengthen the support provided by their operational activities to national and regional actions and targets for human resources development, in particular by improving coordination and by developing a multisectoral, integrated approach;

7. Also calls upon the relevant bodies to bear in mind the need to mitigate possible negative impacts and to include appropriate social safety nets in the formulation and implementation of stabilization and structural adjustment programmes in developing countries, taking into account the needs of all people, including the needs of women;

8. Notes the important role that non-governmental organizations can play in human resources development;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the activities of the United Nations system in human resources development and, in this regard, to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including further action taken to enhance inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system with regard to human resources development, and bearing in mind the definition of human resources development presented in Assembly resolutions 44/213, 45/191 and 46/143;

10. Invites the United Nations system to assist developing countries, at their request, in developing their capacity to assess, inter alia, through appropriate indicators, progress made in satisfying, in the pursuit of human resources development, the fundamental economic, social and cultural needs of their populations, and requests the Secretary-General to include in the report requested in paragraph 9 above information on the steps taken towards this end;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to take into account the important role of human resources development in the elaboration of an agenda for development;

12. Decides to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Human resources development".

3/ See A/48/564, annex, section entitled "Commonwealth functional cooperation: report of the committee of the whole", para. 28.